FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 AUGUST 1983

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation — Iraq launched a counteroffensive in the central sector over the weekend, cutting off Iranian forces in the Mehran area and killing over 3,000 enemy troops, according to Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Baghdad and Voice of the Masses radios. Iraq does not seek to retain Iranian territory but launched the new offensive to teach the Iranian leaders a lesson and to emphasize Iraq's ability to reach "any area" inside Iran, a communique and a related INA commentary stated. A subsequent INA report later updated Iranian losses to over 9,000 killed in the Mehran fighting. However, an Iranian military communique broadcast 7 August by Tehran Radio said Iranian forces "crushed" the Iraqi attack and inflicted over 1,500 casualties. A subsequent communique reported intensified fighting in the Mehran sector and a "futile" Iraqi counteroffensive. Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio claimed that the Iranian attempt to lift the "siege" of Mehran met with "abject failure" and one Iranian brigade was completely destroyed.

In the northern sector, Iran claimed further successes, asserting in announcements broadcast by the radio on 7 August that Iranian forces completely control the Piranshahr-Ravanduz road up to the Darband region. Communiques broadcast earlier by the radio said Iranian troops captured two peaks and a mountain pass near Darband after regaining one of the most important heights overlooking the Hajj 'Umran area. An Iraqi communique broadcast by the Voice of the Masses radio, however, stated that Iraqi forces had managed to repulse all Iranian attacks and destroyed three Islamic Revolution Guards Corps regiments. The communique also stated that all aircraft had returned safely. Tehran radio claimed earlier that Iranian forces had downed two Iraqi aircraft.

In another development, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn visited positions in the central sector, INA reported.

Iranian Peace Conditions — Iran has informed the Arab League secretary general that it is ready to end the fighting if Iraq compensates Iran for material losses in the war and if a Gulf mediation committee names the "aggressor state," KUNA reported citing a diplomatic source.

Iran

Several thousand Iranians staged a "cautious demonstration" in northern Tehran to commemorate the anniversary of the 1907 monarchist constitution, AFP reported on 5 August. The clandestine Radio Iran claimed that "millions" of Iranians participated in the demonstration, adding that the authorities censored news agency reports to give the impression that only the wealthy from northern Tehran supported the action. In a speech broadcast by the clandestine radio, Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar praised the "tens of thousands" of supporters who marched in Tehran on "Monarchy Day." He also announced the formation of the "tribal council of Iran."

The Egyptian interest section of the French Embassy was damaged by an explosion, IRNA reported. In a telephone call to the Tehran AFP office, responsibility was claimed by the Armenian "Orly Group."

Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe met with President Khamene'i and Prime Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, according to Tehran Radio. During the meeting, Abe appealed for an "early end" to the Gulf war but was told by Velayati that Iran will continue to fight to defend its territory, KYODO stated. Abe and the Iranian officials also discussed the completion of the petrochemical complex at Bandar-e Khomeyni which was suspended because of the war.

Lebanon

Diplomacy, McFarlane Mission — Israel will be ready to consider any Syrian proposal for the withdrawal of the IDF and the Syrian Army from Lebanon, including a proposal that Israel withdraw before Syria, a senior Israeli official announced in a statement reported by IDF Radio on 7 August. Meanwhile, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad explained Syria's "principled position" on the regional situation to U.S. presidential envoy Robert McFarlane, Damascus radio reported. The Al-Asad-McFarlane talks in Damascus lasted about 6 hours, according to Radio Monte Carlo. An informed Syrian source cited by the radio said that the Syrian leader reiterated Syria's refusal to withdraw its forces until the IDF has completely withdrawn from Lebanon and the Lebanese-Israeli agreement has been condemned. In a report on the meeting, Beirut radio said McFarlane has opened a new door in the Syrian-U.S. dialogue by raising the possibility of a U.S. move to evict all foreign forces from Lebanon without any commitment or reference to the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. Earlier, Syria's *Tishrin* urged the U.S. envoy to hold a "serious dialogue with the real representatives of the Arab people" but stated that any useful dialogue must necessarily be based on the situation before the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, according to editorials reported by SANA.

Bombings — A car bomb exploded in Ba'labakk on 7 August, killing 33 people and injuring 133 others, Beirut radio announced. Responsibility for the bombing belongs to a group called the "Organization for the Liberation of Lebanon From Foreigners," an anonymous caller to the Beirut AFP office stated. Earlier, 19 people were killed and 38 others were wounded by a car bomb explosion near a mosque in the northern city of Tripoli, according to a 5 August report by the radio. Explosions in Beirut and Al-'Urbaniyah also killed several people, Voice of Lebanon radio noted. The Voice of Lebanon blamed the Tripoli bombing on a local organization affiliated with "external sides" and linked the Ba'labakk explosion with the PLO-Syrian conflict.

On the other hand, Damascus radio said the new cycle of violence is part of an "Israeli-Phalangist" attempt to terrorize and subjugate the "Lebanese nationalist masses."

Meanwhile, Druze-Christian clashes continued in the Ash-Shuf area, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon reports on 7 August.

PLO Affairs

The Palestine Central Council (PCC), in a communique issued after its 3-5 August session in Tunis, stressed the need for "immediate dialogue" to rebuild relations with Syria and announced its decision to set up a committee drawn from PCC members to pursue this matter and help tackle the PLO's internal problems. The communique, which was broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, also noted the PCC's recommendation that the PLO Executive Committee establish a "military field committee" to supervise a cease-fire between the warring factions in the Al-Biqa' valley. The PCC reaffirmed the need to establish a "Palestinian patriotic front in occupied Palestine as an arm of the PLO," the communique said.

Earlier, in his speech to the PCC session, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat called for a "quiet and constructive dialogue" with Syria, according to Radio Monte Carlo. The PLO and Syria share the same destiny and should draw up a joint strategy, 'Arafat declared. 'Arafat also urged the PNC and the PLO Executive Committee to form a group to establish a "deep dialogue" with Syria and a "frank and comprehensive inter-Palestinian dialogue" on the various problems, according to a related Baghdad Voice of PLO radio report.

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf also called for "strategic relations" with Syria but sharply criticized the Syrians for interfering in PLO affairs and said they can stop the fighting in Al-Biqa', KUNA reported. Meanwhile, in a message to the PCC broadcast by the PLO's North Lebanon Voice of Palestine radio, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir urged the Council to bring about a real cease-fire in Al-Biqa'.

In an interview with the London *Al-Majallah*, Salah Khalaf rejected the Syrian "logic of subservience," which it regards as synonymous with alliance. He stressed the PLO's adherence to the principle of independent decisionmaking, including the right to appoint or to dismiss the "commander of a small unit." Responding to a question on Syrian involvement in the Fatah dispute, Khalaf asserted that the Syrians were showing "total partiality" with the dissidents. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, "strongly supports" Palestinian legitimacy and the PLO, he said.

Clashes between Fatah dissidents and loyalists continued intermittently in Al-Biqa' over the weekend, according to reports by Beirut radio and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The two sides had earlier concluded a "draft agreement" to evacuate Ba'labakk and they also exchanged prisoners, Beirut radio reported. The Soviet ambassador to Syria has unsuccessfully attempted to mediate between the dissidents and loyalists, Voice of Lebanon radio asserted. Meanwhile, in a Beirut press interview reported by Radio Monte Carlo, Fatah dissident leader Nimr Salih ruled out the possibility of reconciliation with Yasir 'Arafat and revealed that the dissidents soon will establish their own newspaper and radio station. A Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary predicted that the dissidents will not abide by the PCC resolutions because of their links with "intelligence organs" with which they have signed a "pledge" not to renege on their "conspiratorial move" regardless of the solution presented to resolve the Fatah dispute.

In a statement to *Al-Madinah* reported by SPA, PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad al-Yamani announced that the conciliation committee formed to resolve PLO-Syrian differences will go to Syria 13 August. The mission, the official stated, has four objectives: to maintain PLO unity; to end the Fatah fighting; to preserve Fatah unity; and to improve Palestinian-Syrian relations.

Israel

Ambassador to United States Me'ir Rosenne called the statement by Secretary of State George Shultz that the existing settlements on the West Bank should not be dismantled an "important political statement," Jerusalem radio reported.

Israel is selling military information and expertise to the PRC, which may be financing the deal by selling obsolete arms to Iraq, according to a report from London cited by *Ha'aretz*.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, in an interview with *Akhbar al-Yawm* cited by MENA, asserted that despite proof of direct Libyan involvement in Chad, the upcoming Egyptian-U.S. exercises were not designed to "terrorize" Libya.

Libya-Chad

Chadian President Hissein Habre, whose death was announced earlier by JANA, is in Ndjamena, Paris radio's international service reported. A JANA report asserted that he left Faya-Largeau for the capital after learning of a coup plot against him led by his foreign minister, Idriss Miskine, and aided by the French ambassador. Meanwhile, a Libyan plane was shot down and the pilot captured in Faya-Largeau, a Chadian Embassy statement cited by Paris radio revealed. In another development, French Defense Minister Charles Hernu said France will not send Jaguar aircraft to northern Chad to help counter Libyan attacks, Paris radio reported. However, JANA later claimed that France had ordered Jaguar aircraft from Libreville to northern Chad. Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri also sent a "fully equipped battalion" to fight with Habre's forces, JANA announced.

The People's Foreign Liaison Bureau issued a statement carried by JANA that claimed that the arrival of U.S. AWACS and fighters in Sudan and Egypt is a "coverup" for the "occupation" of the Arab homeland and an excuse for aggression against

Libya. The Libyan people will not surrender a single inch of their territory, Tripoli radio said.

On the diplomatic front, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi cabled CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Yuriy Andropov on the current situation, and a military delegation that includes the Air Force, Air Defense, and Navy chiefs of staff and the director of military industrialization left for the USSR, according to Tripoli radio and JANA reports. Al-Qadhdhafi cabled the UN Security Council and Arab leaders on U.S. military "provocations," Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland radio and JANA stated.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri urged Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to convene an emergency Arab summit to discuss the current Palestinian crisis and Arab "interference" in Lebanon. In an open letter published in the London paper *Ash-Sharq al-Awsat*, Numayri questioned the motives behind Klibi's "opposition" to convening such a summit and wondered if Syrian and Libyan pressure might have played a part. Meanwhile, the Arab league denied reports that it is frustrating calls for an emergency session, according to KUNA.

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Rebels Seen as 'Ill-armed, Poorly Trained, Divided'
PM051318 London The Sunday Telegraph in English 31 Jul 83 p 7

[Lieutenant Colonel Colin Mitchell interview with R.H. Greenfield: "The Colonel Goes to War in Afghanistan"]

[Text] In popular belief the Afghan freedom-fighters are gallant and romantic patriots proving more than a match for the Russian invaders. In truth they are ill-armed, poorly trained and divided, and they face ultimate annihilation by the Soviet war machine. Without practical support from the West, David will succumb to Goliath.

This sombre view was expressed last week not by an academic military commentator, but by a former officer of the British Army who has been to see for himself. Only a month ago Lt-Col Colin Mitchell, the man who commanded the Argylls during an epic period of the guerrilla campaign in Aden, was footslogging through the Afghan hills with a band of tribesmen being hunted by Russian helicopter gunships.

Col Mitchell has had a colourful and sometimes controversial career, both as a soldier and later as a Conservative MP. But there is no doubting his qualifications to judge the military situation in Afghanistan. This is the tenth campaign in which he has been either a participant or an observer — campaigns that have included counter-insurgency operations in Palestine, Cyprus, Kenya, Borneo, Vietnam and Rhodesia as well as Aden.

On this visit to Afghanistan — which has not been his first — he lived with the Mujahidin guerrillas, accompanied them on raids, and talked at length with their field commanders. He also won their respect, not only as the possessor of the only map and compass, but as a man who at the age of 57 could march with them across rough country, identify their mortar bombs for them, and demonstrate how to defuse a Russian anti-personnel mine. "They came to regard me as a one-man training team," he says.

Speaking to me last week in his London flat, he gave a bleak appraisal of the prospects confronting the Mujahidin, the religious warriors, in their Jihad or "holy war" against the infidel invader. While full of admiration for their courage, stamina and morale, he was deeply pessimistic about their chances of eventual survival unless countries like Britain and America step in with decisive assistance in weaponry, equipment and training.

His assessment sharply contradicts the optimistic picture presented by other Western observers and journalists — a picture of the Mujahidin inflicting heavy casualties on Russian troops and ominating nearly all the country, while the Russian garrison and the puppet regime of Babrak Karmal are beleaguered in the larger towns.

He points out that Western visitors on clandestine visits are beholden to their guerrilla hosts, and are susceptible to stage-managed "victories" because of their lack of military experience. The tribesmen do have their successes, but not on a significant scale.

One crippling handicap is the extent to which the leadership is divided. There are no fewer than seven different exile groups vying for power, one based in Iran and six in Pakistan. As a result the guerrilla hands are engaged as much in fighting each other as in fighting the Russian and Afghan armies, and it is to this internecine strife that Col Mitchell attributes the truce called in the vital Panjshir Valley by the redoubtable guerrilla leader Commandant Masud, the "Lion of the Panjshir." Threatened as much by rival Mujahidin as by the Russians, he had no choice.

Earlier this year Col Mitchell was able to talk to the various leaderships in exile during a visit to Pakistan sponsored by Radio Free Kabul, a Western organisation run from the United States by the Russian human rights activist Vladimir Bukovskiy and supported in Britain by such figures as Lord Chalfont, Lord Bethell and the Conservative MP Mr Winston Churchill.

The Pakistan-based groups are split between the fundamentalist views of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and his Islamic Hezb-e Eslami and the "secular modern" outlook of Seyyed Ahmad Gailani, who maintains a three-party "Unity" group. Col Mitchell is convinced they will never sink their differences, while believing that only a national leader could hold out any prospect of success.

What military aid there is for the guerrillas comes piecemeal from Moslem countries such as Libya, Iran and Saudi Arabia, and is funnelled mainly to the Islamic fundamentalists. Col Mitchell has read claims to modern heat-seeking anti-aircraft missiles being supplied by the West through Egypt, but never saw a sign of one.

Western aid seems to be confined to humanitarian relief for the refugee camps in Pakistan, though this has helped the guerrillas indirectly by allowing them to send their families to safety. Radio Free Kabul also maintains up to 12 clandestine transmitters inside Afghanistan, over which the local leaders can broadcast to the populace and play pre-recorded cassettes aimed at the Russian soldiery.

The Tribesmen are reliant in the main on what they can capture from the Russian and Afghan armies or buy on the black market. Shortage of weaponry is criticial, since the size and influence of a guerrilla band are entirely dependent on the number of weapons its leader can supply.

Their most urgent need is probably for modern weapons capable of destroying Russian tanks and gunships, a means of breaching the minefields surrounding their targets, and materials for sabotage and demolition. But even the most basic military equipment is unavailable.

Col Mitchell played me a tape-recorded conversation with Col Abdul Rahim Wardek, who joined the guerrillas from the Afghan Army. Speaking in fluent and cultured English, Col Wardek listed their chief requirements. These included such basics as sniper rifles with telescopic sights, binoculars and military radio sets with which to co-ordinate operations. Even cold-weather clothing and boots are unobtainable. It was a long list, without any luxuries.

A further problem for the guerrillas is that of trained leadership in the field. Courage is the sole qualification, commanders are expected to lead from the front, and in the three-and-a-half years of Russian occupation too many of the best men have fallen victim to gunships and anti-personnel mines. Even while Col Mitchell and his party were slipping through the Jegdalek Pass, the [?Yunis Khalis] group round Kabul lost their most experienced officer.

One operation that Col Mitchell witnessed summed up the difficulties. His group was warned off one target area by rival factions, and there were days of "milling around" in a state of indecision before another could be selected. Meanwhile men grew restless and went back to their villages.

After a council of war in a mountain hideout, with only captured machine-guns to protect it from maruding MIGs and Hinds, it was decided to attack a Government administrative centre in (Rahak) defended by an Afghan Army battalion with Russian armour in support.

It took a three-day march to reach (Rahak), with donkeys carrying the guerrilla "artillery" of 82mm mortars, bazookas and RPG-7 rocket-launchers. Even with new parties joining on route, the Mujahidin still mustered fewer than 200 men against a garrison of at least 700, and Col Mitchell wondered whether they had evolved some new tactic to defeat such odds.

They had not. Lacking a radio, the commander had to shout his orders over a battery-powered megaphone. The mortars and RPG-7s opened fire, but the enemy were protected by long earthworks, emplacements, covered trenches and pillboxes, together with at least two tanks.

The defenders' fire steadily intensified, from rifles, machine-guns, mortars and 115 mm tank guns and the Mujahidin were forced to pull back at the edge of the minefield. All their ammunition was expended, and they could only withdraw.

"The (Rahak) stronghold lived up to its description," Col Mitchell recalls. "It was heavily fortified and surrounded by mines for which the Mujahidin have no breaching equipment, detectors or de-fusing techniques. Even once when I was taking a fuse out of an anti-personnel mine myself — a perfectly safe procedure — there was a sudden scattering of the onlookers.

"This was simply lack of confidence through lack of knowledge. They are not trained to render mines harmless, except by firing at them or driving a valuable herd of goals into the minefields. With mines now scattered along roadsides, around power pylons and near all conceivable static targets, they are — after the gunship — the Russians' most effective counter-insurgency weapon."

The Russians are by no means invincible. Col Mitchell describes them as "an undiciplined shower — an oafish army who abandon their weapons, loot civilian cars at roadblocks, sell their equipment for hashish and leave the wretched Afghan Army to do all the dirty work. The Mujahidin fed me on Soviet Army rations sold on the black market."

At present there is something of a stalemate. The success of the guerrillas in dominating the countryside has humiliated the Russians and their puppets. But the Mujahidin can deliver only pinpricks from which the Russians themselves are largely immune.

Meanwhile, the Russians are subject to none of the constraints affecting Western governments in prosecuting counter-guerrilla warfare. Young men are shipped off to Russia for indoctrination, crops and livestock destroyed, water supplies cut off, villages attacked until the refugees now occupying them beg the Mujahidin to keep away.

Th fact that Russian casualties are now being admitted in the Soviet press has been interpreted by some as a hopeful sign that the Kremlin is paving the way for eventual withdrawal. Col Mitchell believes, rather, that the Russian public is being prepared for a long, hard campaign.

"The comforting David and Goliath analogy of the Western world ignores the fact that David is hydraheaded and wears a bewildering variety of religious and secular turbans," he says. "What is even more worrying is that Goliath under pressure is falling back on the techniques of scorched earth and genocide which are the ultimate weapons in the Soviet armoury.

"When Mrs Thatcher stood at the top of the Khyber Pass she declared: We will not rest until Afghanistan is free." But if these are to be more than empty words, they must be followed up by practical help in the form of military training and equipment. Otherwise, Afghanistan is doomed."

Delhi Radio Reports 'Major Reshuffle' by Ershad

BK080356 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] In a major reshuffle in Bangladesh, the chief martial law administrator, General Ershad, has appointed Major General N.M. Waheed as martial law administrator of Zone A. The zone comprises Dhaka, Mymensingh, and Tangail areas. Maj Gen Waheed replaces Major General Abdur Rahman.

Dhaka University Campus Calm After Gunfights, Clashes

BK051053 Hong Kong AFP in English 1016 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Dhaka, Aug. 5 (AFP) — Dhaka University campus was calm today after gunfights and other armed clashes between two rival student groups yesterday left more than 20 wounded, eight of them hospitalised.

The university began its two-day weekend today, which was expected to give the rival groups — the 15-party opposition Students Alliance and one of the new student groups supporting the military government's 18-point socio-economic programme — a respite.

The two sides fired guns, burst bombs and firecrackers, and used hockey sticks, iron rods and big knives in yesterday's skirmishes, rendering the university, believed to be a stronghold of the opposition Students Alliance, mearly unable to function. The day-long conflict turned the campus into a battlefield with bricks, stones and sticks littered all over.

A newspaper reported today that a young student was seen chasing a crowd with a stengun in hand, firing randomly. The report indicated that a nearby spectator was wounded by the shots.

Seventeen wounded were taken to nearby Dhaka Medical College Hospital mostly by three-wheel rickshaws. Eight were admitted and the rest released after treatment, reports said.

Reports indicated that the number of injured probably was much higher beause many might have sought private treatment to avoid legal complications from their involvement.

In post-clash rampage, one motor cycle was set on fire and another was badly damaged. Both belonged to two press photographers covering the incidents. One report said that students attacked the two cycles presuming that they belonged to two press photographers covering the incidents. One report said that students attacked the two cycles presuming that they belonged to their rivals.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor A.K.M. Siddique expressed shock over the incidents. "This is an ominous sign, and the university cannot run like this," Bengali daily *Dainik Bangla* quoted him as saying.

Government To Finance Local Bodies Elections

BK040522 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The chief martial law administrator [CMLA], Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, has said the government will bear the expenses of the election campaign, including projection meetings of the candidates in the coming elections to the local bodies.

He was speaking as chief guest at Id reunion function of the Dhaka Municipal Corporation at [words indistinct] auditorium yesterday. The CMLA said this step will not only provide equal opportunity to the rich and poor candidates but will also check corruption which generally creeps in during the elections. He said projection meetings will be arranged for the contesting candidates giving equal facilities so that the money cannot play a prominent role in the voting as had been in the past. The arrangement will enable the voters to elect able, honest, and dedicated people who have genuine feelings for them and reject the dishonest and corrupt persons. (?Most of) the people vote for the candidate of their own choice on the basis of merit and good qualities and not money and wealth, he added.

AFP: Rift in Awami League Seen as Aid to Regime

BK051609 Hong Kong AFP in English 0827 GMT 5 Aug 83

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, Aug. 4 [date as received] (AFP) — A rift in the Awami League, once the country's largest party which led Bangladesh to independence, marks a further blow for the major opposition parties, already beset by inner conflicts and lack of mature leadership since martial law was imposed 16 months ago.

Political observers feel that the divisions and disunty are indirectly helping the military regime of General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, as well as gradually eroding popular confidence in political institutions.

The split between Awami's two emerging groups reached the point of no return this week when each met separately and announced measures suspending leaders of the other group from party offices for violating party discipline.

The two groups in Awami are led respectively by Chairman Sheikh Hasina Wajed, daughter of Bangladesh's founding Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and General Secretary Abdur Razzak.

Sheikh Hasina, elected to head her father's party in 1981, held a meeting of the party's working committee on July 31 and August 1 to discuss alleged "anti-party" activities by some leaders including Mr. Razzak and three of the presidium members.

After concluding the day's meeting on Tuesday, a spokesman for Sheikh Hasina announced that the committee had decided as a disciplinary measure to suspend six of the rebel leaders from holding any office.

Mr Razzak, who is backed by three of the 10 presidium members, Badul Malek Ukil, Mohiuddin Ahmed and Abdul Momen Talukder, and a large number of party workers, responded by calling the meeting "illegal."

He them convened a counter meeting of the executive committee on Wednesday to take similar action against nine leaders in the Hasina group. His expulsion list included six presidium members, Kamal Hossain, Zohra Tajudding, Zillur Rahman, Abdul Mannan, Korban Ali and Abdus Samad Azad, and three secretariat members including organising secretary Tofael Ahmed.

Mr Razzak, who claims allegiance to late leader Sheikh Mujib's Baksal system for establishing socialism, described Sheikh Hasina as "captive" in the hands of reactionary elements, and urged her to join him in reorganising the party.

Observers said Mr Razzak, who commands the support of most of the party workers, had the backing of pro-Moscow elements within the Awami League.

Sheikh Hasina, one of Sheikh Mujib's two surviving daughters, also accused Mr Razzak and his supporters for violating party discipline.

Mr Razzak is reportedly occupying the party office in Dhaka's busy commercial district Bangabandhu Avenue, the scene of clashes between two rival groups on Sunday.

The division in the Awami League, which suffered an earlier break in 1979 when Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury came out with his supporters and formed another Awami League, is expected to have repercussions on the 15-party opposition alliance.

Observers here feel the latest break is primarily due to personality clashes within the leadership. But they do not rule out a division emerging between the pro-Soviet and pro-West elements within the party.

Splits in political parties have become more frequent in Bangladesh since the overthrow of political government by military coup in 1975. The country has now almost 70 political parties, most of which exist only on paper, and their activities are often confined to issuing press statements.

The other former ruling party BNP[Bangladesh National Party], founded by late President Ziaur Rahman, also suffered a break a few months ago when a rebel group led by former information ministers revolted against the leadership of party chairman and former President Justice Abdus Sattar.

Many other parties, including the radical socialist party JSD and the rightist party Moslem League, have also suffered divisions recently.

Doha Returns From Delhi South Asian Meeting

BK041149 Dhaka BSS in English 1122 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 4 (BSS) — Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha returned yesterday from New Delhi after attending the South Asian foreign ministers meeting in the Indian capital which formally launched the South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC).

Describing the Delhi meeting of SARC as "dramatic and historic" having "complete unanimity" among the seven participating nations, Mr Doha said the foreign ministers of these countrieswould meet within a year to finalise the date for a summit meeting of the heads of governments. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka are members of SARC.

The two-day meeting of the foreign ministers of the seven South Asian countries concluded Thursday. It was preceeded by a meeting of the foreign secretaries of the seven nations in New Delhi.

SRI LANKA

Premadasa Warns of Possible Foreign Interference

BK051132 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Prime Minister R. Premadasa said in Parliament yesterday that everybody should act with care since there was a possibility that foreign powers would try to interfere in the activities of the administration under the pretext of internal strife.

He was winding up the debate on the sixth amendment to the Constitution bill. He requested [as heard] that the Sri Lanka Freedom Party had not conceded that a foreign power was in the background of the 1971 insurgency. North Korean diplomatic personnel were asked to leave the country as a result of this involvement.

The prime minister pointed out that there were occasions when certain countries had gravitated into the sphere of influence of other powers taking advantage of the internal crisis. We are still faced with such a bleak prospect. We should not forget that those powers would continue to take efforts to find supporters within the country by enlarging the local crisis.

The prime minister stressed that no room should be allowed to these persons to pose a threat to the country's development and sovereignty.

Mr Premadasa explained that the amending legislation was introduced to safeguard the unity of the country while ensuring fair treatment to all sections of the community. He said that their course of action should be based on the concept that injustice should not happen to those who had not committed any offense. He said that the president took steps to meet the needs, including the food requirements of the people, when they were faced with the problems of transport during various incidents which took place in the north.

He said that they should have the courage at this juncture to act with human kindness. Only a very small portion of the people were involved in violence.

The prime minister recalled that an opportunity to discuss problems in Parliament was not accorded during the 1971 insurrection and they were unable to obtain any information.

Mr Premadasa added that there was nothing wrong in the [word indistinct] learning about happenings in the country. But information should be true.

Speaking earlier, Minister of Trade and Shipping Lalith Athulathmudali urged the armed youth in Jaffna to lay down their arms and surrender. He said that the majority of Tamil-speaking people were against the division of the country. The Sinhalese and the Muslims are living unitedly. The minister said that they were faced with the present tragic situation because the Tamil United Liberation Front failed to profit from the opportunity extended to them by the president to solve the problem.

Reports of Military Aid Requests 'Firmly Denied'

BK051356 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Sri Lanka has firmly denied as completely baseless and unfounded a news report by the UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL that Sri Lanka had asked for military assistance from several countries to be used against India.

Secretary, Ministry of State, Douglas Liyanage, at a news conference in Colombo today quoted a statement by the Foreign Ministry which said that Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed was asked by newsmen at New Delhi airport (?early this week) as to why Sri Lanka was not asking India for aid and, according to the UPI report, Sri Lanka was asking for aid from other countries? Mr Hameed in response had said in the presence of the Indian minister for external affairs that if Sri Lanka had asked for any help from the international community, she would ask India also. The foreign minister also told the newsmen that India had offered Sri Lanka food aid which (?since) the government had accepted. The Foreign Ministry regrets that many rumors and false stories (?coming from) the UPI source have been published, most probably with the aim of destroying the friendship and understanding between Sri Lanka and India.

The Foreign Ministry statement adds that a spokesman of the U.S. State Department had stated that the United States Government had not received any request for military assistance from the Government of Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathumudali has also called the UPI report a lie. He said that the government and democratic (?forces) in Sri Lanka would never allow any friction between Sri Lanka and India. He emphasized that it would never permit Sri Lanka to become a base for anti-Indian activities.

No Violence Reported 5 Aug; 18 Arrested for Looting

BK051322 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] No violence, no arson or untoward incidents of any kind have taken place during the last 24 hours, according to police reports. However, 18 people have been arrested in the suburban areas of (Vallavasta) and (Tigiara Matarina) for possession of looted property. Property worth (?300,000) rupees have been recovered. There were reports from the districts that the situation was completely normal.

AFP: Soldiers Massacre 51 Tamils in Jaffna Region

BK060046 Hong Kong AFP in English 0034 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Text] Jaffna, Sri Lanka, aug 6 (AFP) — Army troops massacred 51 Tamil civilians in northern Sri Lanka to avenge the July 23 ambush and killing of 13 soldiers in the northern town of Jaffna, Tamil sources claimed here Friday. Authorities in Colombo denied the report.

About 300 people, mostly Tamils, were killed last week and 80,000 left homeless after the July 23 incident triggered intercommunal violence between the minority Tamils and majority Sinhalese. But authorities still were refusing to say how many civilians have died in this week's continuing violence.

A few hours after the ambush, officials from the Jaffna region claimed, "young soldiers came and slaughtered 51 people," some of them in their homes. A Jaffna lawyer gave names and showed photographs of the alleged victims. "We are living under the virtual occupation" of some 2,000 Sinhalese soldiers, one Tamil official said. He said the troops were harassing local people who "fear them terribly."

While driving through the region, an AFP correspondent saw many inhabitants take refuge behind thick foliage bordering the roads every time military patrols went by.

Parliamentary opposition leader Appapillai Amirthalingan, secretary-general of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), told AFP that 7 MPs from his party stayed away from the new Parliament's opening session Thursday out of fear for their safety. A constitutional amendment passed Friday in Parliament will exclude TULF from Parliament unless it gives up its demands for an independent Tamil state.

Speaking from his village near Jaffna where he had withdrawn, the opposition leader said: "My house and all my documents were set on fire in Colombo" during Sinhalese violence. He said President Junius R. Jayewardene and Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa had told him they could no longer guarantee his safety in the capital.

The opposition leader, who heads the moderate Tamils, refused to say what line his party would take in the wake of the new amendment. "The bulk of the people see in the acts of violence a complementary feature to our main struggle for freedom," he said. But the choice facing moderate Tamils now was "disband TULF and form a new party or forget about Parliament and continue our struggle." He charged that the president's conservative administration had failed to keep promises to introduce use of the Tamil language in local government and give police, army, and civil servant jobs to Tamils. He claimed that the Sinhalese were trying to "cripple us economically by destroying our properties and intimidate us into total surrender."

AFP: TULF To Discuss Constitutional Amendment Bill

BK060806 Hong Kong AFP in English 0744 GMT 6 Aug 83

[AFP notes: "This dispatch was subject to censorship."]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug. 6 (AFP) — The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), Sri Lanka's main parliamentary opposition party, is to meet in the north tomorrow to discuss its future course of action following adoption by Parliament yesterday of legislation banning parties and groups advocating separatism.

Parliament is due to meet again on Tuesday when a new six-year term begins following last December's national referendum which extended the life of the current Parliament by another six years. Members will take a new oath that day, pledging to uphold a unitary state and eschewing separatism. Even if the TULF does not attend that day and fails to take the oath, its members still continue as parliamentarians with all the privileges.

Meanwhile Trade Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told newsmen that the doors were still open for a dialogue with the Tamil people. He said a dialogue did not exclude even an amnesty for the terrorists if they laid down their arms. The minister pointed out that the TULF was not the voice of the Tamil people, noting that it was essentially a northern party and most Tamils were against separatism.

Jayewardene Discusses Situation, Aid With Gandhi

BK061117 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Text] President Jayewardene has told the Indian prime minister, Indira Gandhi, that the situation in Sri Lanka has returned to normal. In a telephone conversation with her yesterday, the president said that the rumors that had been spread regarding Sri Lanka requesting military assistance from foreign countries were untrue. Such assistance, he said, was not necessary since our own Armed Forces and police are capable of meeting any situation that could arise.

Replying to an inquiry as to what assistance is required, President Jayewardene said that drugs and medicines and food aid to persons who had been displaced would be useful. He thanked her for agreeing to send ships from India to transport the displaced persons to Jaffna.

According to a communique issued by the Presidential Secretariat, the discussions were most cordial.

Special Envoy To Visit India

BK071108 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] President Jayewardene is to send Mr H.W. Jayewardene, Queen's Council, to New Delhi following the conversation he had with Mrs Indira Gandhi last Friday. According to the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency, Mrs Gandhi described the visit as a welcome development and hoped that the dialogue would be constructive and fruitful.

Mr H.W. Jayewardene is expected to leave for India within a few days.

BBC Report on Outbreak of Diseases Denied

BK051409 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] The secretary in the Ministry of State has categorially denied a report broadcast by BBC that an outbreak of dysentry has taken place in one of the camps. He said there was a firm denial by the commissioner general of essential services that there was any substantial outbreak of diarrhea or any other

disease in any of the camps. The current estimate of displaced persons in and around the city of Colombo camps is about 52,000. The estimated number of displaced persons in the camps outside Colombo is about 12,000. These camps are situated mostly in Kandy, Tricomalee, and in Ratnapura. Those persons who decide to go by air to the northern region have to pay a subsidized fare of 600 rupees.

Meanwhile, about 150 Sri Lankans who were stranded in India took a ferry boat in Talaimannar in the early part of this week; 200 people were stranded at this side comprising Indian tourists and [words indistinct] repatriates were taken back in the ferry boat.

The number of refugees [words indistinct] by ship from Colombo to Jaffna exceeded 7,000. This [words indistinct] the massive organizational efforts by the Ministry of Trade and Shipping with the collaboration of Ceylon Shipping Corporation and the Port Authority [words indistinct] . Authorities have planned to move a minimum of 10,000 per week.

Curfew To Be Lifted Nationwide From 8 August
BK071106 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] The curfew will be completely lifted from tomorrow. An announcement issued by the Ministry of State states that the curfew, once it is relaxed at 0400 tomorrow, will not be reimposed. The lifting of the curfew applies to the whole country.

Reimposition of Curfew Ordered for 9 Districts
BK071321 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] The curfew order for Monday, which was announced earlier, has been amended to facilitate investigations by the security authorities. The curfew will be reimposed tomorrow at 2200 in the administrative districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Kandy, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Ratnapura, and Kagalla. In these districts, the curfew will be lifted at 0400 on Tuesday. There will be no curfew in the other districts of the island from tomorrow.

De Alwis Speaks on Improvement of Situation
BK071643 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] Everybody can look forward to a normal state of affairs in Sri Lanka. The minister of state, Dr Anandatissa de Alwis, in a broadcast over the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation this evening, said the situation was so different after just more than a week so as to produce comfort, reassurance, and a sense of ease among us all. The violence has steadily declined and those who defied the law have been subdued by the security forces. Some of the troublemakers have been arrested. The looted properties are being flushed out from various places where they had been hidden. A considerable number of persons affected have been transported to Jaffna and Batticaloa. The cooperation received from the public has strengthened the arm of the government.

The minister observed that it is very rarely that in any country where there has been eruption of violence like this that it returned to normalcy so quickly. The distribution of food and other essential commodities are now normal. About 10,000 persons are estimated to have left the welfare centers in the past few days and more will be leaving.

Dr de Alwis disclosed that a special organization will be set up to repair the damage done. It will be known as a rehabilitation of property and industrial authority. All properties affected by the riots will be vested in state with effect from the 23d of July. Till now the statistics are available as to who have been affected by the riots and who have lost their jobs.[sentence as heard] The process of rehabilitation will be systematically undertaken. The government will to some extent continue to have some share in the new undertakings because restitution will require financial assistance from the state.

Measures are being taken to reaffirm our embassies and tourist agencies abroad that tourism can commence. There will be a conference tomorrow when the tourist board [words indistinct] delegates of European travel agencies to assure them of the conditions now prevalent in the island. Diplomatic missions abroad will also be kept informed.

Dr de Alwis said that politically President Jayewardene looks forward to the continuing cooperation of everybody in Sri Lanka to find a lasting solution to problems that caused too much human miseries in the last few days. People have to live together in honor.

Official Discusses Scope of Rehabilitation Plans
BK071144 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] The government has now prepared plans covering the entire process of reconstruction and rehabilitation, according to Commissioner General of Essential Services Bradman Weerakoon. He said that everything was under control and the task would be accomplished in three phases.

The first phase concerns the establishment of welfare centers and the task of providing basic facilities to the displaced persons, and this has already been accomplished.

Mr Weerakoon said that they have now to implement the second phase of moving these persons to their prescribed places of temporary location.

The third phase will be with rehabilitation in places where the displaced persons chose to live in the future. He said that this aspect of reconstruction is a matter which will concern the new Ministry of Rehabilitation.

Mr Weerakoon disclosed that the coordination of the movement of displaced persons is engaging the attention of his office. He said that several friendly countries have offered assistance to overcome the present situation. UN agencies and international

nongovernmental organizations have also offered help. He added that his purview of work was mainly the maintenance of essential services and that he was taking every effort to see that this was done as quickly as possible.

Police Raids On To Recover Looted Goods

BK071140 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] Intensive raids to recover looted and stolen property are being carried out in the Colombo South police division. The Moratuwa police yesterday recovered antiques worth 20 million rupees during a raid, which was one of the biggest ever so far in the area. The items included antiques dating back to several thousand years and utensils used during the period of kings. Among the items recovered were a gem-studded statue of the goddess Tara, a Buddha statue and an antique jar from an Egyptian palace. Most of the items were stolen from a house at (Intebagda) in Moratuwa. The total value of lost items is estimated to be over 90 million rupees, according to the officer in charge [OIC] Moratuwa police, (Francis Maligatte).

Fifty seven persons have been taken into custody during the raid, conducted by a 15-member team including the OIC. Further investigations are being conducted under the direction of the assistant superintendent of police Moratuwa, (S. Sivaratnam).

KUNA Reports Note to Klibi on Conditions To End War

LD051905 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1807 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Tunis, 5 Aug (KUNA) — The conditions contained in the Iranian note forwarded to the Arab League secretary general, Chedli Klibi, to stop the armed Iraqi-Iranian conflict were revealed here today.

A high-level diplomatic source informed KUNA that the Iranian note, which was delivered to the Arab League's office in the Brazilian capital, declares "Tehran's readiness to end its armed conflict with Baghdad on the condition it compensates Iran materially toward its losses in this conflict, and that a Gulf mediation committee define the aggressor state."

The note, which was addressed to Chedli Klibi, asked him to work toward activating a Gulf mediation to find a solution to the armed conflict. It pointed out that "the Tehran government considers the withdrawal of the forces of Iraq and Iran from the territories they occupy in the other side's country to be a matter open to discussion."

The note affirmed "Iran's rejection of any temporary military truce and its insistence on finding a comprehensive and durable settlement to the conflict."

The note expressed "the Tehran government's respect for all countries of the Gulf region and its desire not to interfere in their internal affairs."

Iran demands the mediation committee "conduct arbitration without partisanship, noting the Iranian Government's respect for Arab nationalism."

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,411

LD051826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Communique No 1,411 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with reliance on the strong rope [of God]and with firm determination and an iron will, continue their ceaseless battle against the aggressive Saddamist forces.

In the Val-Fajr II operational sector, the combative forces of Islam started the second phase of these operations in the early hours of yesterday morning by launching an offensive. They captured the strategic 2519 heights, and, following that, foiled the enemy's counteroffensives, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries and taking some of them prisoner. The details of these operations have already been brought to the attention of the Muslim and combative Iranian people in a communique issued by the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada — peace be upon him — Headquarters.

In the Val-Fajr III operational sector, the powerful combatants of Islam stabilized the captured positions and, returning fire, they continue to defend their positions and fully control the enemy's activities.

At 1715 hours on 4 August of this year, the enemy tried to launch an offensive against the Angoshti heights, situated in the Sumar region, but he was immediately confronted by our forces and was forced to retreat after suffering losses.

On the border fronts of the Baneh and Marivan areas, exchanges of fire continued yesterday. As a result of fire from the combative units of Islam, one ammunition dump, one Katyusha, and a number of Iraqi infantry trenches were destroyed and the enemy's movements in the regions of Tutman, Gholgholeh, and Sheykhan were stopped.

Yesterday our forces opened fire on the positions, servicemen, tanks, and artillery of the enemy on the southern fronts and defended their own positions.

Exchanges of fire were more intense in the regions of Shalamcheh, Sharhani, and Pichangizeh and through the vigilance and the timely fire of our forces, the enemy's reconnaissance operations in the Kushk region and the activities of the Iraqi infantry units in the regions of (Badfiyeh) and Pichangizeh were foiled. An enemy motorized unit moving from Zubaydat to Sharhani also came under fire and sustained losses and casualties.

Yesterday, the residential and industrial areas of Abadan came under the enemy's heavy weapons fire; as a result, part of a government building was destroyed and fire broke out at several points.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,412

LD061856 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Communique No 1,412 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Operations carried out by the powerful combatants of Islam on the fronts of the imposed war hereby are brought to the attention of the dear compatriots. At 0925 this morning, the fast flying proud pilots of the Air Force and the ever alert units of the antiaircraft defense units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran hit and downed another Mirage fighter belonging to the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries in the operational region of Val-Fajr III, Piranshah.

Fighting and an intensive exchange of artillery fire continued yesterday on the Val-Fajr III operational fronts. Following their successful operations and the achievement of preset objectives, the proud combatants of Islam — while fortifying and equipping their positions — opened artillery and heavy weapons fire on enemy positions and units, inflicted damages and casualties on

the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist forces, and halted all their movements and activities on these fronts.

On the border fronts in Bakhtaran Province, the powerful combatants of Islam returned the enemy's artillery fire, keeping their tank, artillery, and infantry positions under fire and inflicting damages and casualties on them. On the Val-Fajr III operational fronts, our combatants succeeded in stopping all Iraqi activities. On the southern fronts, the victorious combatants of Islam continued to defend their positions. In addition to silencing the Iraqi fire, they also foiled all enemy surveillance operations in the Shalamcheh, Kuch, Faqih, and Pichangizeh areas and forced them to flee after sustaining damages and casualties.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the Gendarmerie warriors and other combatants of Islam positioned on those fronts returned the enemy's fire by opening fire on the Saddamists' positionson the other side of the Arvand Rud. A number of individual and collective entrenchments and observation posts of the Iraqi forces along with their corresponding crews were destroyed and troop movements of Iraqi forces on the other side of the Arvand Rud were stopped.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,415

LD071826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Communique No 1,415 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. In the Val-Fajr III operational theater, the Islamic combatants yesterday neutralized all enemy movement and operations.

At 0850 yesterday, the enemy began a counteroffensive in the Mehran region. Concentrating its tanks and exerting pressure, it tried to penetrate our forces' defensive lines. Our combatants' resistance forced the enemy forces to alter their course after suffering losses and casualties.

At 0912 yesterday, the Saddamist forces staged an offensive against the forces of Islam stationed in the (Nameh Kelambo-ye Kuchak) and Durraji sectors, intending to advance toward the (Zanuab) heights. Our combatants' strong resistance halted the enemy offensive and forced the Saddamist mercenaries to retreat.

At 0515 today, the enemy staged another offensive from the Durraji post. Once again, however, it encountered strong resistance from our forces and was forced to flee.

During the past 24 hours, the combatants of Islam have defended their positions on the southern fronts and brought enemy concentration points under fire. An enemy patrol group intending to penetrate our forces' positions in the Hoseyniyeh (Nazdik) sector was forced to flee by our combatants' fire.

The heroic forces of Islam yesterday disrupted enemy activities such as mine-laying, trench-digging, and creating communication and reconnaissance lines from east Faqih to (Zobeysad).

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Joint Headquarters Base Issues War Communiques

Communique No 11

LD071133 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Communique No 11 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohda Headquarters]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With God is great on their lips Islam's warriors, composed of brave elements of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, selfless members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and mobilization units, Kurdish Muslim peshmerga and Muslim Iraqi fighters, continued the second phase of the Val-Fajr II operation aimed at liberating the heights adjacent to heights 2519, the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada heights, and at destroying the Zionist enemy forces in that region. They advanced into Iraqi territory, launched an onslaught into the heart of the Ba'thist-Zionist forces' positions, struck further blows on them, and liberated important areas.

In these victorious operations, Islam's forces, under the command of the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, center of joint operation of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, succeeded with fierce fighting in that region to liberate the Darband pass, which is one of the enemy's jugulars, as well as the (Takidnian) range and peaks 2120 and 1970 north of Darband. Following their liberation, these heights, have been renamed after Martyr Ayatollah Sadr.

The honor-creating Armed Forces of Islam have already established themselves in the objectives and on the heights that had been selected in advance and, while consolidating and reinforcing the newly gained objectives, they are now directing their fire on the positions of the Zionist enemy, who is within direct sight and range now, delivering crushing blows on the desperate enemy. Details of losses inflicted on the Zionist enemy will be brought to the attention of our Muslim and martyr-nurturing nation in subsequent communiques.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, center of joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 12

LD071848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Communique No 12 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[Excerpts] Continuing the second phase of the Val-Fajr II operations, the Islamic combatants succeeded during operations yesterday and today to liberate the highland range of (Taychi Kuran), heights No 2120 and 1970 situated north of Darband, thus conquering the strategic Darband Pass, a vital enemy pass, and liberating the villages of Sumar and (Babakr-e Ab). Heights No 2120 and 1970 have been renamed after Ayatollah Sadr.

Furthermore, the Islamic combatants established their complete domination over the Hajj-Rawanduz road in Iraq as far as the Darband Pass. Consequently, they have brought this axis under their total control and have also occupied several enemy bases. The army of the hidden imam, peace be upon him, led by Commander in Chief Imam Khomeyni, is continuing its heroic battle and has smashed the 3d Battalion of the 65th Brigade of the Special Force as well as the 2d Battalion of the 5th Infantry Brigade Commando Force, coming under the 604th Infantry Brigade. Our forces also succeeded in smashing a commando company of the 98th Infantry Brigade, thus killing over 1,000 Saddamist troops, wounding hundreds of others and taking dozens of Iraqis prisoner.

Continuing their operations today, the Islamic combatants, having liberated the 2519 heights in the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada sector and the surrounding regions, succeeded in capturing the enemy's headquarters of the 92d Infantry Brigade and in liberating heights No 2062 overlooking the Rayat-Darband road, with their their cry of infidels sounding over its fortifications.

A considerable number of heavy weapons, artillery, heavy machineguns, and 120, 82, and 60-mm mortars, together with a other ammunition and light weapons have been captured intact by our forces to date. The heroes of the Islamic army are now established in the captured heights and fortifications and have gained all their operational objectives; they are now engaged in consolidating their positions.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada, joint operational center of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Corps

Command Headquarters Issues Communiques

Communique No 4

LD071134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Communique No 4 of An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters]

[Excerpt] Islamic combatants consisting of valiants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and selfless guards and mobilization units of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps in response to the enemy's fruitless offensive which was launched yesterday in a region southwest of Mehran and which was crushed, under the command of An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters, attacked the Zionist enemy forces in that region and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. During this triumphant operation, the Islamic combatants succeeded in completely destroying an infantry battalion and more than 80 percent of Iraq's independent 70th Armored Brigade and killed or wounded more than 1,500 troops, including Brigadier General (Mohammad Johar Khalil), commander of Iraq's 70th Armored Brigade, and a large number of Iraqi officers and NCO's. A number of enemy troops have been captured by the Islamic forces and to date 26 of them including 2 captains and a few NCO's, have been transferred behind the frontlines.

During this victorious operation, our forces shot down 2 enemy helicopters and set on fire and destroyed at least 40 enemy tanks and personnel carriers. Also a few enemy ammunition dumps were set on fire by our combatants; they burned for several hours.

At the moment, the Islamic forces are fully consolidating their positions in the Val-Fajr II operational sector, are firing intensely on the Zionist enemy concentrations in that region, and are inflicting heavy blows on them.

The Islamic combatants are determined, God willing, to continue their battle with the Zionist enemy and not to rest a second until the just aims of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the lofty aspirations of the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution are achieved.

[Signed] An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters, command headquarters, for the joint operation of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps

Communique No 5

LD071748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Communique No 5 of An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters]

[Excerpts] Following the victorious operations carried out by the powerful combatants of Islam under the command of An-Najaf Ashraf base in the Val-Fajr III operational area, when the combatants of Islam succeeded in totally destroying an infantry battalion, more than 80 percent of the Iraqi 70th Armored Brigade, and in killing or wounding more than 1,500 enemy forces including Brigadier (Muhammad Johar Khalil), commander of the 70th Armored Brigade, and a large number of officers and NCO's, communique No 5of the An-Najaf Ashraf base was released a few minutes ago as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The victorious combatants of the army of Islam are continuing their mighty battle against the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy in the Val-Fajr III operational region. An aggressive enemy plane was hit and brought down by our antiaircraft defense units in this region at 1815 today. The battle in the southwestern region of Mehran was intensified this afternoon, and the forces of Islam opened fire on enemy positions, fortifications, and equipment and succeeded in killing a considerable number of enemy personnel. Our forces

also set fire to and destroyed dozens of tanks, personnel carriers, and other vehicles. More than 15 enemy tanks, which were also destroyed in the heavy fighting this afternoon, have been left in the operational region.

Employing its defeated forces, the Zionist enemy attempted to launch a futile counteroffensive at 1800 today, which was crushed by the steadfastness and courage of our brave forces. Having suffered a large number of casualties and loss of many tanks, personnel carriers, and other vehicles, the enemy forces began to retreat. Over 20 of their gutted tanks have been counted in the operational region to date. Heavy fighting is now taking place and the forces of Islam have the upper hand. Our combatants are dealing crushing blows to the weakened enemy.

[Signed] An-Najaf Ashraf base, joint operations center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Khamene'i Sermon Cites 'Remarkable Victories' in War

LD051324 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] During today's glorious Friday prayers in Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslem Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Friday imam of Tehran and president of the Supreme Defense Council, referred to the remarkable victories of the forces of Islam in the northwestern operational sectors, Mehran, and the southern parts of the country:

[Begin recording] I wanted to bring to you brothers and sisters glad tidings about the 2519 heights. Several days after the war began, the Iraqi forces occupied the 2519 summit. Although it was not so important and we were in control of higher peaks, including the 3000 peak, the Iraqis concocted some amazing propaganda on this subject. They sent a cable of congratulations to Saddam from the battlefield and launched 48 hours of propaganda maneuvers worldwide. They were telling lies and claiming to have recaptured Hajj 'Umran and several named peaks. They were lies, and yesterday your combative brothers powerfully recaptured the same 2519 peak from the aggressors [shouts of "God is the greatest" from the crowd] And the Iraqis retreated after suffering heavy losses including the annihilation of two commando battalions and two battalions of Saddam's special forces, 1,000 dead, and the destruction of a troop-carrying helicopter with a group of soldiers in it. They retreated from this point in shame and disgrace.

Of course, this Hajj 'Umran Garrison and its surrounding heights and peaks were extremely important. The reason for this importance is this: During the past few days, they employed every sort of trick and lie in the mass media to deceive the Iraqi people and prevent them from hearing the facts. They even broadcast a film showing Saddam inspecting the Hajj 'Umran Garrison. This film had been taken several months ago. The Hajj 'Umran Garrison is now in the hands of the combative hezbollahi forces of the army and the Guards Corps. The Supreme Islamic Revolution Council of Iraq holds its decisionmaking sessions there. And at the same time, the Iraqi television shows a film about Saddam's visit. This indicates the importance and greatness of the issue.

This place, in addition to being an extremely important strategic point for the Iraqi forces, was also very important for connecting and linking Iraq with our internal counterrevolutionaries in the Kurdish regions. The counterrevolution, which was fighting against the Islamic Republic in the Kurdish inhabited area, was linked to Iraq via this point and the necessary logistics and supplies were coming from Iraq through this area. Some documents have been seized in the Hajj 'Umran Garrison which are very important and prove this fact.

The second front was the Mehran front. Thanks be to God, also on this front our brothers in the course of some very successful operations, were able to distance the city of Mehran and its surrounding roads from the firing range of the enemy's artillery fire. Our brothers succeeded in capturing and taking firm positions on the highest peaks in order to put pressure on Iraqi forces.

Yesterday and last night, the Iraqis launched some desperate operations, but their ammunition ran out and after the annihilation of a group of their soldiers they fled. Our brother combatants, your loved ones and your children, are firmly positioned in this region. Thanks be to God they do not have any problem there except happiness and hope. [shouts of "God is the greatest" and "Death to Saddam"]

To make up for their defeats in the north and in the Mehran region, three nights ago the military affiliated to the mercenary regime of Saddam decided to launch an offensive. They attacked an earthwork. That earthwork was neither in our hands nor in the hands of the Iraqis. When our combative brothers saw that these gentlemen had attacked an empty earthwork, they seized the opportunity to launch a counteroffensive. They moved toward these cowardly and feeble aggressors and killed or wounded a large number of them. The Iraqis suffered more than 300 dead and wounded and our brothers captured the earthwork and took positions there. [shouts of praise from the crowd] And in the northern front. . . . [shouts of "God is the greatest" interrupt Khamene'i and he does not finish sentence]

Well, naturally, faced with these defeats, deprivation, and frustration and after all those blows on his snout, Saddam did not remain very idle. His task was to recall some of the frontline officers from time to time, blame them for the defeat, and execute them in front of the public by firing squad. Once again, we were informed yesterday that two young officers, Iraqi captains, had been called to go behind the battleline and that they were executed by a firing squad. They were blamed for losing the 2319 heights so easily.

It is appropriate to ask this question, and I suggest that the Supreme Islamic Revolution Council of Iraq ask the people of Iraq how long are they going to allow the imposed regime of Saddam to wreak vengence on the Iraqi people for its own misfortunes? For how long? How long should Iraqi youth, officers, NCO's, soldiers, reserve soldiers, and others who have been dragged out of their houses by force to go to battlefronts to fight for falsehood be defeated by the truth? How long should they come and die and their bodies rot in the desert to bring bereavement to their families? This is taking place because Saddam is not prepared to concede to the truth. He is not prepared to give up his obstinacy. If the rancorous regime of Iraq

were to give up obstinacy and if it were to recognize fact, which it has never done, then the nation of Iraq would be the first to breathe a sigh of relief. The people of Iraq should ask the question. The Supreme Islamic Revolution Council of Iraq should ask the people of Iraq what rights has this imposed edifice got to dispatch these young men to the battlefront? What is their excuse for sending them to the front? We are defending our revolution. We were subjected to an attack and are defending ourselves. Still in the Mehran region and in major parts of Khuzestan and the west, we are fighting in our own territory. Our young men are fighting in the battlefields for the sake of safeguarding their honor and religion and for religious reasons and to safeguard their revolution. This is why they leave their homes. This why (?they sacrifice themselves).

During the Hajj 'Umran affair, I was told that a group of committed brothers dyed their hands with henna when they were leaving for the battlefield. They said: "We are going to be martyred." Our combatants fight for a reason. They fight with firm intentions. What motive does an Iraqi soldier have for fighting? What has he been told? What have they put in his brain to make him come to the battlefield? Of course, he would not come intentionally.

Today I would like to tell all the Iraqi soldiers, the Iraqi officers, and all those who have been brainwashed by Saddam to think that the Iranians are after occupation of their country, I would like to tell them that we do not covet even a single span of Iraqi soil. [shouts of approval] We have not moved to achieve conquest and victories. We were sitting in our homes; we wanted to start our reconstruction and we wanted to organize and refurbish our revolution; then we were attacked. And now we are defending ourselves. Of course, this defense will continue until the aggressors against the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Revolution are taught a lesson and put in their places. [end recording]

Further Report on Sermon

LD051446 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Millions of our Muslim compatriots today took part in politico-religious Friday prayers throughout the country. Today the University of Tehran witnessed the participation of vast throngs of Muslim and revolutionary people of Tehran in the Friday prayers, led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslem Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

The ad interim Friday imam of Tehran said: The Islamic Government is for the people in two senses: First, the people participate in running of the government and appointing of the ruler, whose appointment involves the people. [as heard] The second meaning is that the Islamic Government is in the service of the people. The interests of the people as a whole are important to an Islamic ruler. Islam is a popular government in both senses. Now, there are many governments in the world, both in the Eastern bloc and the West, that claim to derive their authority from the people. For instance, today if you ask the great Soviet nation if it is in favor of the occupation of Afghanistan, the maintenance of an imposed government in a neighboring country, and the expenditure of billions, perhaps the major part of the people have no correct information concerning it, and if they are aware of the issues, they are not in favor of these things.

Continuing his first sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslem Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Friday imam of Tehran, said: I warn all those who are knowingly trying to make our people anxious, worried, and disturbed about the present and the future — and also advise those who are doing this unknowingly — that our nation will maintain its position, that all the issues are getting better, and that there are no difficulties and that Cabinet reshuffling and the changing of a few ministers does not constitute a problem. These people serve here today and serve somewhere else tomorrow, but they always serve the revolution. Piety strengthens the nation and individuals. Therefore, one should not talk impiously or impiously slander believers.

5 August Demonstration in Tehran Described

AFP: Cautious

NC051259 Paris AFP in English 1230 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Tehran, aug 5 (AFP) — Traffic was jammed in Tehran's elegant northern quarter today in a cautious demonstration marking the anniversary of Iran's 1907 monarchist constitution.

The call, launched by three opposition groups transmitting short wave radio messages from abroad, brought out several thousand of the capital's inhabitants, all visibly middle-class or wealthy, in a procession highly unusual for a Friday morning in Tehran.

At 11:00 a.m., families piled into their cars and headed towards the northern sector of the capital as if merely out for a ride. But Friday is a rest day in Iran and the ensuing traffic tie-up signaled something was amiss.

"This is a demonstration," one driver told AFP.

Women, wearing jewelry and makeup in defiance of the regime's rulings, but covered still in the traditional chador, exchanged knowing glances.

But few dared say more about the protest, the first staged by pro-shah elements since the beginning of 1981.

The call came from two monarchist radios and "Radio Bakhtiar," founded by the late shah of Iran's last prime minister Shapou Bakhtiar, now in exile in Paris. Some of the broadcasts appeared to have originated in Iraq.

Pro-shah elements, or "idolaters" as they are called by Iranian revolutionaries, have continued to be reviled by the regime.

Only the wealthy appeared to have participated in today's protest, leaving Tehran's poorer neighborhoods untouched. Most persons questioned said they were unaware of any call to demonstrate.

As cars converged to the north, the prayer hour led by Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i took place as usual at Tehran University in the presence of hundreds of faithful.

By the end of the morning, security forces, including units of the revolutionary guards and neighborhood militia groups, were sent to survey the northern sector of the capital while armed men were sent in to direct traffic at all intersections.

Radio Iran: Unprecedented

GF051733 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Millions of the Tehran citizens and millions of the inhabitants of the provinces of Iran poured out in the streets in an unprecedented demonstration today. This is how the world's media described the huge, unified demonstration of the Iranian nation. Although the news agency reports indicated the participation of millions of the Iranian people, the censored government telexes indicated that the demonstration was supposed to be held only in the northern parts of the city of Tehran.

The rented cars, minibuses, and taxis carrying the oppressed people from Tehran Pars, Afsariyeh, Javadiyeh, Moniriyeh, and Midan Zaleh at dawn today proceeded to the central streets of the city and the latest reports indicate that the people of Moniriyeh, one of the oppressed districts of Tehran, participated extensively in this demonstration. On Jordan Street, several guards threw buckets of flowers on the jammed cars. Many people in the streets were weeping as a sign of happiness.

Our news sources on today's demonstration in Tehran report that the demonstration was very tactful and clever. In Vanak, the security officials of the regime started firing to prevent the traffic from flowing. The same sources have reported that the oppressed people of Tehran participated widely in the political demonstrations today and their presence in the central streets of Tehran has caused the oppressor killing administration of Khomeyni to tremble. God bless you, dear compatriots.

Free Voice of Iran: Effective

GF051827 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Compatriots, the combatant Iranian people accepted the invitation of the nationalists and patriots. With their peaceful demonstrations and silent protests, they did more than an anguished cry could do and,thus, pulled down the roof on the tyrant mullahs and the oppressive regime. The government witnessed these demonstrations with complete helplessness. Of course, Khomeyni in his Jamaran fortress and the ruling mullahs in their homes, with their faces like (?used diapers) or in their bulletproof vehicles with curtains drawn, could not see these demonstrations from close range. But the hezbollahi guards of the mullahs, who with their loaded machineguns were patrolling the streets, could see the crowds of people strolling in the streets. This demonstration was more sharp than any sword and more effective than any arm.

Compatriots, we congratulate you on your victory today and greet the nation which, at the invitation of the patriots and nationalists, carried out such a demonstration. The mullahs cannot ignore such demonstrations. After this, the government of mullahs will be forced to keep in view this resistance of the Iranian nation which held this demonstration with empty hands. The government is now scared because this nation, with all the pressures, with all its deprivations, with all the arrests, with all the torture, and with all misfortunes, has not yet cowed. The Iranian nation will never cow.

Guns and machineguns are in the hands of the mercenaries of the government. Therefore, we must be cautious. But we should not become afraid. It is this executioner Khomeyni and his low colleagues who are afraid. They are afraid of you. They are afraid of the Iranian nation. Your demonstrations today have rendered a serious blow to them. The day when you will strike the final blow is not far off. The Iranian nation has shown today that it is ready to stage the final uprising. Long Live Shahpur. Long Live the Iranian nation. Down with the government of Khomeyni, the executioner.

Egyptian Section of French Embassy Damaged

LD072116 Tehran IRNA in English 2029 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] Tehran, aug 7, IRNA — The Egyptian interest section at the French Embassy in Tehran was slightly damaged and a number of its windows were broken following an explosion.

The causes of the explosion are not yet clear but security forces are investigating the matter.

This is the third time in recent weeks that French diplomatic buildings here have been damaged by explosions.

'Orly Group' Claims Responsibility

NC071745 Paris AFP in English 1742 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] Tehran, Aug 7 (AFP) — Offices used by Egyptian interests here were damaged today by two bombs claimed by the extremist Armenian "Orly Group," which has claimed a number of other recent attacks in the Iranian capital.

There were no reported injuries in today's attack, although the offices and a car parked outside were damaged, Muhammad Mujahid, the Egyptian diplomat in charge of the building, said.

In a telephone call to the AFP bureau here, a person speaking Persian and claiming to represent the Orly Group, said: "In our next attack, the responsibility for all the dead and wounded will fall to the French regime."

Mr Mujahid said the bombs today could have been thrown from the street. A bomb planted in the offices a week ago was defused.

The group claimed responsibility for four bombings and attempted bombing of French Embassy and airline offices here last month, for which the Armenian secret army for the liberation of Armenia also claimed responsibility.

The Orly Group also claimed responsibility for last week's failed kidnap attempt here, in which they tried to kidnap an Italian diplomat in the belief he was French.

Paper Claims Armed Forces Reemerging as Power Center
GF022030 Paris Ara in Persian 7 Jul 83 p 8

[Article by Amir Taheri: "Khomeyni and Zahirnezhad"]

[Text] After 3 years of following the mullahs, the Iranian Armed Forces are again reemerging in the war-stricken nation as a power center. In his early days, Khomeyni wanted to dissolve the army, to replace it with the newly formed Guard Corps. Now he grudingly has become kind to the same army and it is the revolutionary guards who are being threatened with extinction.

The mullahs have left the command center of the army and only participate in some of the Islamic ceremonies as prayer leaders. The honor of the army will be restored next month when 2,000 officers and NCO's are to receive promotions and hundreds will receive medals on the first anniversary of the army's thrust into Iraqi soil during the 3 years of the Persian Gulf war.

When the war started, only 2 of the 28 divisions of the army were battle worthy. Several weeks after the victory of the mullahs, thesoldiers were sent home and the leftist guerrillas were allowed to plunder the armories, basically destroying these army divisions.

The execution of over 1,000 officers and forced retirement of another 10,000 deprived the army of half of its experienced officers. During the past 3 years, around 3,000 forcibly retired officers were quietly recalled to active duty. The army is now estimated to number over 300,000 with 3 corps, 20 infantry divisions, an independant airborne division, 112 armored battalions, and several other units [yekan], but the number of volunteers and young people in the army is very small. The army's budget is around 20 percent [as published] which is around 6 billion British pounds, slightly below that of the time of the shah. Since last year, the army commanders have had direct contact with Khomeyni and the control of the mullahs who run the Supreme Defense Council is only ceremonial. The extent of the army's credibility is such that the photographs of Brigadier General Zahirnezhad and other senior officers are placed side by side with Khomeyni's. Zahirnezhad has become a father figure for the officers whose alligance to the regime may not last after the death of the 84-year old ayatollah. The army is now united and is strongly at odds with the mullahs and the revolution guards, both of which are clearly showing animosity toward it.